

DEBATING UNION ACTS AS SOCIALIZING AGENCY

An Educational League Which Has Been Brought to Great Power in North Carolina.

HISTORY OF BIG MOVEMENT

No Other State Ever Has Conducted Such Comprehensive Debates, 1,000 Boys and Girls Taking Active Part, and 91 Counties Participating.

BY S. R. WINTERS.

CHAPEL HILL, N. C., May 29.—Since the first intercollegiate debate held in this country twenty-two years ago this form of intellectual activity in high schools and colleges has undergone a steady state of development. The constant aim, however, has been to train the intrinsic merits in forensics and at the same time correct the evils in the methods of debating.

The early form of debating took shape in rivalry between groups of students in the same school or college. Rival debating societies came as a consequence, and later intercollegiate debating grew in favor. Among the pioneer societies in American universities fostering intercollegiate debates were the Philanthropic and Dialectic Literary Societies of the University of North Carolina. They came into existence in 1795. The notable part played by these societies in training men for public leadership and in the art of parliamentary procedure is a matter of record. The work of these two handsy societies in the past has been of an original nature and national in scope.

Dr. Albert B. Hart, of Harvard University, in his chapter on "The Art of Debate," in "Brookings and Kings," writes: "Briefs for debate take the machinery for debate 'takes its most effective form in two rival societies, such as the Whig and the Union, at Princeton, the Philanthropic and Dialectic at the University of North Carolina, the Philolexian and Barnard, of Columbia, and the Union and Forum, of Harvard."

NEW LIFE IS INJECTED INTO PROGRAM OF SERVICE

But since that appraisal of many years ago of these two debating societies new life has been injected into their program of service. An epochal chapter was inserted in their century-old usefulness in 1912 a big idea was promulgated and crystallized into working shape.

An intercollegiate debater conceived the notion that the high school lads of North Carolina aspired to test their intellectual acumen on the contest platform. C. E. McIntosh, now chief clerk to the State superintendent of public instruction, the originator of the idea, urged the two societies to take concerted action in the formation of a State-wide debating league.

The inception of the proposed State-wide debating league was a system of pyramids, the championship in debate of a whole State could be determined, took root in the shape of a committee from the Philanthropic and Dialectic Societies. Six students, one member of the faculty and State inspector of secondary schools constituted the committee. The duties of this body were to investigate all the merits of the contemplated debating league, to obtain the means of financing the new institution and draft resolutions looking to the establishment of the union. The committee reported favorably on its deliberations and christened the league "The High School Debating Union of North Carolina." Plans were inaugurated for the conduct of the first State-wide contest in 1913.

It was decided that the project should be financed by the two literary societies. The provision for a trophy to be awarded the championship team each year was made in the form of a cup. The cup was named in honor of former Governor Charles Aycock, whose oratorical and debating propensities were encouraged by the Philanthropic Society of the university. The Aycock Memorial Cup was to be the trophy. The names of individual winners and schools represented in the championship contest are yearly inscribed on this cup, and in the event that any school wins the cup for two years in succession it becomes the property of that school. Three annual contests have followed to wrest the trophy from the control of the intercollegiate debaters of the university, and the donors of the championship trophy.

MACHINERY IS VESTED IN CENTRAL AUTHORITY

The machinery in the conduct of the State-wide contests of the league was deemed advisable to be vested in a central authority, under the auspices of the Philanthropic and Dialectic Societies. A permanent secretary was named, upon whose shoulders the responsibility of directing the contests should largely rest. E. R. Rankin, a graduate of the university, a former secretary and a permanent office was equipped from which he could direct the destinies of the union. The advantages of State university supervision of a high school debating league are enumerated. The university, with its resources of their departments of public speaking and time and means for thoroughly knowing the whole field of debate, renders a college aid, together capable of giving assistance in the selection of a query. Too, the university could supply bibliographies and debating handbooks for use in the league. Another advantage in university supervision is the stimulus affording the high school debater to become ambitious for further honors when successful in high school debates, and the chances are he will be inspired to acquire a college education.

The complicated task confronting the debating league was the drafting of regulations governing all the prospective schools in the union. Every high school in the State was invited to enlist membership. The method of organization was the plan of a triangular grouping. Every school that entered was grouped with two other schools for a triangular debate, each school putting out two teams, one on the affirmative side of the query and the other on the negative. Every school winning both the affirmative and negative sides of the argument are entitled to send both teams to Chapel Hill to compete for the State championship and the Aycock Memorial Cup.

The regulations governing the union were embodied in fifteen brief paragraphs. The salient regulations thus outlined are: (1) The Dialectic and Philanthropic Literary Societies will suggest a uniform query to be discussed on a given date by all the schools in the union; (2) all secondary schools, however supported, are eligible for membership; (3) all schools shall be arranged in groups of three for a triangular debate the status and standards of the members of the group, accessibility, and convenience of location to be considered in forming the groups; (4) each school of each triangular group shall furnish two debating teams of two members each, one to uphold the affirmative side of the query, and the other to defend the negative; (5) the members of the

North Carolina's Champion Debaters



Lalla Rookh Fleming and Ethel Gardner, of Wilson High School, winners in 1915 series of debates conducted by Debating Union of North Carolina.

team must be bona fide students, that is, attended 30 per cent of the school year, and make passing grades on a majority of their work; (6) the team debating at home shall uphold the affirmative side of the query and the visiting team the negative; (7) the schools themselves shall select the judges in the local contests; (8) each speaker shall have twenty minutes at his disposal, not more than fifteen to be devoted to first speech; (9) any school winning both of its debates shall be entitled to send both teams to Chapel Hill to contest for championship; (10) in the event that one school of a triangle drops out, then the two teams remaining shall debate each other; (11) in the event that two schools of a triangle drop out the remaining one shall be declared winner over the other two by reason of default; (12) the school having the strongest team on the affirmative and the school having the strongest team on the negative are entitled to contest publicly in Chapel Hill for the Aycock Memorial Cup. The preliminary contests, (13) the winning school in final debate shall have the name of its school and two representatives inscribed on the cup; (14) any school that wins the cup for two years in succession comes into permanent ownership of the trophy; (15) all high school representatives and principals coming to the university for the final contest are entertained free of cost.

METHOD OF PROCEDURE HAS VARIED SLIGHTLY

Since the inauguration of the High School Debating Union three years ago method of procedure has varied but slightly. The first comprehensive State-wide series was conducted in February, 1913. A series of four preliminaries determined the championship school. Ninety schools and 350 debaters were enrolled in the contest of 1913. "Woman Suffrage in North Carolina" was the query for discussion. The State-wide preliminaries, in which the local schools composing the various triangles established their claim to come to Chapel Hill for the final debate, were conducted on February 21. Two weeks later the schools that had established their debating prowess by winning both sides of the query came to Chapel Hill. Sixteen of the ninety schools availed themselves of this opportunity. Another series of two preliminaries in Chapel Hill was the method obtaining in selecting the strongest school on the affirmative, and the strongest school on the negative side of the query. Pleasant Garden and Durham High Schools were the contending teams in the final debate, with the former the declared champion of the State. Grady Bowman and S. C. Hodgin were the individual winners.

The second annual debate enrolled the membership of 150 high schools and 600 student debaters. "Shall the Constitution of North Carolina Be So Amended as to Allow the Initiative and Referendum in State-wide Legislation?" was the question discussed. It is estimated that 20,000 people heard this series of debates. "Equity," a well-known publication of Philadelphia, said: "It is safe to say that on that day this subject received more intelligent consideration than it has ever received on any one day in any other State in the Union." Winston-Salem High school was the winner in the final contest, and individual honors went to Charles Reddick and Clifton Eaton, two fifteen-year-old debaters.

The third comprehensive State-wide series of debates were conducted in March and April of this year. "Ship Subsidy" was the topic for discussion, and Wilson High School was the declared champion of the final debate, Lalla Rookh Fleming and Ethel Gardner, sixteen and seventeen years old, respectively, were the winning representatives. The two girls were the successful contenders against Stewart Cowles, and Cowles Bristol, two boys representing the Statesville High School. The negative side of the query was defended by the winning school.

AN UNEQUALLED IN CONSTRUCTIVE INFLUENCE

In its all-embracing reach, in number of boys and girls enrolled, in number of high schools participating, in the

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The besetting sins, however, can be safeguarded—they are tendencies rather than evils! Chief among the bad tendencies of the system is the temptation of the principal and superintendent of the high school to deprive the boys and girls of the benefits of working up the debates by outlining the debates for them. The overweening ambition to win from a rival school creates this condition. Another tendency that has its origin in a college atmosphere is in the selection of a debating query. The constant temptation is to select some abstract, high-sounding subject for discussion in preference to a practical, every-day topic. The corrective measure can be applied easily here, once the evil is recognized. Then, too, the question has been raised in favor of restricting membership in the debating league to one sex. Mixed debating groups—the contention has been made—will inevitably result in awarding the decision to the girl debater.

But, as stated in the outset of this article, the gradual tendency is to eliminate the evils in the methods of debating, and treasure the inherent merits—thus a powerful educational force in the high school life of a State is conserved.

ORANGE

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

ORANGE, Va., May 29.—Mrs. Raleigh Taylor was hostess at a delightful bridge party at Woodberry Forest on Thursday evening, given in honor of Mrs. Delaplane, who is the guest of Mrs. H. O. Lyne, Mrs. Henry Warren, Mrs. Charles Woolcock, Mrs. Green Shackelford, Mrs. Virginia Shackelford, Mrs. George Shackelford, Mrs. W. H. Hargis, Mrs. Joseph Walker, Misses Miriam Hill and Patty Lovell, Mrs. Carter Walker and Mrs. James Parker. The prize was won by Mrs. Virginia Shackelford.

The Junior Bible Club was entertained by Miss Bessie Mason on Saturday evening at the home of her brother, Barton Mason, on Marshall Heights. Miss Porterfield, of Richmond, is the guest of her brother, Mr. William Porterfield.

Mrs. J. M. Coppel, of Chevy Chase, Washington, arrived in Orange on Saturday, and will be the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Barton Mason.

Ashley Johnson, of Chicago, was a week-end guest at the home of George Browning.

Miss Eugenia Wambersie, who spent the last session at Sweet Briar, returned to her home near Orange last week.

Mrs. W. W. Greener was a visitor to Charlottesville last week.

Judge John Rutherford spent several days in Orange last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Allen Gray and son, Leslie, spent several days in Washington last week.

Edward Price, of Lewisburg, W. Va., who is now attending the University of Virginia, was the week-end guest of Dr. and Mrs. Lewis Holladay.

Miss Patty Lovell, who has been visiting Mrs. Henry Warren, has returned to Richmond.

Rev. L. G. Scott, of Petersburg, spent several days in Orange last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Eustace Galsan attended the council at Alexandria last week.

Mrs. Charles Moncreu and daughters, Misses Louise and Annie, visited Washington last week.

Barton Mason spent several days in

Sponsor for Sons of Veterans



Miss Rubenette Lee

Richmond last week.

Dr. L. G. Scott, Jr., was a visitor to Charlottesville on Saturday.

Mrs. William Porterfield entertained at an informal tea drinking on Tuesday afternoon in honor of her sister-in-law, Miss Porterfield, of Richmond. Tea was served by Misses Elizabeth Ransom and Elizabeth Porterfield.

W. N. Culp, of Charlottesville, spent Sunday in Orange.

William Duncan, of Somerset, was the week-end guest of Theodore Scott and William Tavenner.

Mrs. L. S. Ricketts was hostess to the Orange Bridge Club, and a great many of her other friends on Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Lewis Booten entertained delightfully at cards on Wednesday evening in honor of Mr. and Mrs. James Hill. Those present were Mrs. C. C. Woodcock, Mr. and Mrs. Allen Warren, Mr. and Mrs. George Taylor, Miss Josephine Williams, Mrs. W. W. Burgess, Miss Page Williams, George Oliver and William Tavenner.

Rev. R. S. Carter has returned from Alexandria, where he attended the council.

Mrs. Latimer Mason left last week for an extended visit to York, Pa.

Mrs. Virginia Shackelford was hostess at a delightful card party on Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. James Hill returned from their wedding trip on Monday.

Green Shackelford spent Monday in Washington.

Mrs. George Shackelford, who has been on a visit to her daughter, Mrs. Carl Black, of Haddonfield, N. J., has returned home.

Miss Ruth Riddick, of Norfolk, who has been spending the winter in Orange, left on Saturday for Hollins Institute, where she will attend the finale.

Dr. and Mrs. Walker Walters, of

Lynchburg, spent this week in Orange. Mrs. Edmund Scott, of Somerset, has been spending the past week in Orange as the guest of her daughter, Mrs. C. M. Crafton.

SUFFOLK

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

SUFFOLK, Va., May 29.—The Ladies' Aid Society of Oxford M. E. Church was entertained by Mrs. A. B. Ballard at her home on St. James Avenue last evening.

Miss Marion Williams, who left several days ago for Los Angeles, Cal., arrived at home on Tuesday night, accompanied by her aunt, Mrs. Huttenpiller.

Mrs. J. T. Eason and children have returned home to Tyner, N. C., after a visit to B. J. Sitterton.

H. F. Twine, of Richmond, has concluded a visit to his mother, Mrs. B. J. Sitterton.

Mr. and Mrs. William Briggs are in Raleigh, N. C., attending the graduating exercises of Meredith College, college, where their daughter, Miss Ada Briggs, is a graduate.

The Progressive Bible Study Class of the Christian Church met on Monday night with Mrs. W. E. Brooks on Hill Street.

M. W. Lloyd, of Richmond, spent Monday in Suffolk.

Miss Simpson, of Norfolk, who has been visiting Misses Lizzie Smith and Ruth Brinkley, has returned to her home.

Horace Staley Byrd left on Monday for Portsmouth after a visit to Suffolk friends.

Henley Churn left on Tuesday for several days in Franklin.

Misses Faye Cross, Elsie Bailey, Jessie Whitley, Doris Saunders and Myra Burton and Ernest Jones, Jack Dar-burg

den, Willons Caulk, Floyd Bagdon, Thomas Birdsong have returned from a trip to Lake Drummond.

The Nominating Club met on Friday night with Mrs. Herbert West on Park Street.

Miss Mae Whaley is the guest Mrs. Frank Whaley in West End. Colonel J. E. West left on Monday night for Elton College, N. C.

Mrs. E. A. Caffey has concluded visit to Mrs. Wick, of Philadelphia and is now at her home on Main Street, accompanied by Mrs. Wick.

Mrs. J. T. Harrell, of Norfolk, was in city on Tuesday.

BON AIR

[Special to The Times-Dispatch.]

BON AIR, Va., May 29.—The Bon Air Dancing Club will open the season June 1 at the pavilion. Over fifty members are enrolled and many attractions are promised through the summer months.

Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Wortham family have moved into their summer home for the summer.

Miss Sue Sharp has been the recent guest of Miss Sue Gordon.

Miss Lucy Mason was the guest Miss Hermine Moore this week.

Misses Mary and Harriet Crane spent the week-end with the Miss Cooke.

Mrs. Joseph Sadler, of Forest Hill, was with the Misses Power last week.

Mrs. E. B. McCluer and Mrs. R. Bridgeforth are spending a few days with Mrs. Edwin Rinkerton in Baltimore.

Miss Harriet Cooke is visiting Mrs. Preston Cooke in Williamsburg.

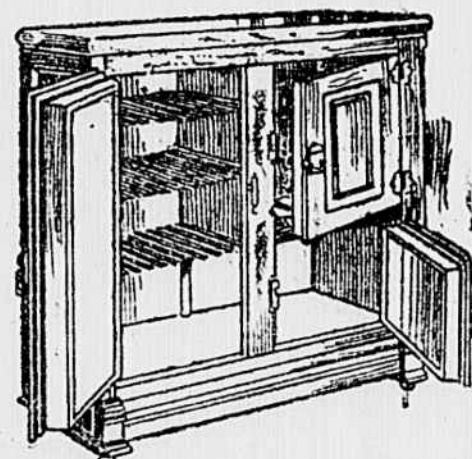
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\$25.00 Refrigerators, Monday	\$22.50
\$22.50 Refrigerators, Monday	\$19.75
\$27.50 Refrigerators, Monday at	\$24.75
\$35.00 Refrigerators, Monday at	\$29.75
Nursery Refrigerators, Monday at	\$1.98
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\$12.50 Mirrors, at	\$7.50
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